(b) whether it is a fact that there is a demand for cellular phone subscribers to have the facility to migrate from one company to another;

(c) if so, the reasons for delay in giving directions in this regard;

(d) the other steps would be taken to give cellphone subscribers a chance to avail of goods offers without using their phone numbers; and

(e) the steps proposed to expedite matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) to (e) At present there are technical limitations such as non-availability of dual technology handsets, clearing house mechanism etc.

Operational exchanges in Assam

1670. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that three new 256 PC-DOT exchanges have been sanctioned by BSNL during the financial year 2002-03 to be located at Jania, Gahia and Palhazi, District Barpet, Assam;

(b) whether these three exchanges are in operation now; and

(c) if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons thereof and by when these three exchanges would be commissioned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) With the availability of wireless technology, BSNL commissioned a Base Transceiver Station (BTS) in August 2004 at Barpeta which is providing wireless coverage to all these places. Telephone connections in Jania, Gahia and Palhazi, District Barpeta are being provided on Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) to willing customers. Consequently, no action was taken to open telephone exchanges in these places.